

**CITY OF NORWALK  
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 13, 2016  
FODOR FARM – CONFERENCE ROOM  
328 FLAX HILL ROAD**

ATTENDANCE: Travis Simms, Chair; Richard Bonenfant; John Kydes;  
Shannon O’Toole Giandurco; Steven Serasis;  
Michael Corsello (7:07 p.m.)

STAFF: Michael Mocciae, Director

**I. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Simms called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and called the Roll.

**II. MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2016**

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. KYDES)**

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak this evening.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed this evening.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**\*\* MR SERASIS MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CHOZEN FEW ENTERTAINMENT LLC FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR AN S.O.S. MUSIC FEST FINALE TO BE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016 FROM 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016 AT 9:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN NOON ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016.**

**ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200+.**

Ms. Mellodye Ragin was present. The event will start at 4:00 p.m., after business hours a Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum. Mr. Bonenfant and Mr. Serasis said they attended this event last year and had a great time.

Mr. Corsello joined the meeting a 7:07 p.m.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Ms. Ragin to attend the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Common Council.

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CHOZEN FEW ENTERTAINMENT LLC FOR THE USE OF ANDREWS FIELD PARKING LOT FOR A L.I.F.T. CARNIVAL TO BE HELD FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016, SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM DAILY, SET UP TO TAKE PLACE SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2016 AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN NOON ON MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500+.**

Ms. Mellodye Ragin was present. She explained that L.I.F.T. (Learning is Fun Too) teaches youth about music, film, video and its relevant software. They are striving to become a non-profit and raising funds to do so. She said that they have done different events over the year and are music people looking for support. She noted that they do not do just one genre of music. They hope that a Common Councilmember or two will help them further their community efforts. Mr. Serasis said that he will make a commitment to help them.

Mr. Serasis asked why Chozen Few Entertainment has to pay \$3,000 if they are not making money. Mr. Mocciae explained that everybody has to pay and go through the City's permit process. Mr. Serasis said that it would make sense for the City to partner with them. Mr. Mocciae said that once they have non-profit status, the City could elect to co-sponsor them.

Ms. Ragin said that they are working hard to create a "Live at Five" type of event this summer.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if they have a vendor for the carnival. They have partnered with Arena Amusement for the past six years.

Mr. Simms said that he has known Ms. Ragin and John for many years and they are advocates for art in the City. He commended them for doing a great job. Mr. Corsello agreed. Mr. Simms said that he looks forward to this great opportunity for folks and families to go out and do something positive.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Ms. Ragin to attend the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Common Council.

**\*\* MR. CORSELLO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK HIGH MARCHING BEAR'S INC. FOR THE USE OF ANDREWS FIELD FOR A FUNDRAISER CARNIVAL TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016 FROM 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016 FROM 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM AND FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016 FROM 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE NOON ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN NOON ON SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500+.**

A representative was not present this evening. Mr. Mocciae explained that they have been doing this event for the last 15-20 years. It is mandatory that they attend the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Common Council.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ROWAYTON SCHOOL PTA FOR THE USE OF THE ROWAYTON SCHOOL GROUNDS FOR A CARNIVAL TO BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016 FROM 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016 FROM 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM AND SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 FROM 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE NOON ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN NOON ON SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500.**

Ms. Stephanie Griffith was present. She said that this is their 25<sup>th</sup> year of holding this event. She said that they will have food, but will not have food trucks this year.

Proceeds will go to the PTA.

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Mr. Mocciae said that if it rains, he will give them extra time until the field dries out.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Ms. Griffith to attend the April 26, 2016 meeting of the Common Council.

## DISCUSSION

### Resident Passes

Mr. Serasis said that he asked if the Charter Revision Commission could address resident passes. He described the process he was advised to follow in order to have the issue of resident passes reviewed by the Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Serasis presented the following recommendations:

- Renters and homeowners could obtain a resident sticker if they have a vehicle registered and taxed in Norwalk, and in the resident's name.
- People who own property in Norwalk, but live elsewhere would be eligible for two resident stickers. They would have to show their car registration and a current Norwalk tax bill, with the same name as that on the registration.
- The driver of a vehicle with a dealer or repair plate must live in Norwalk, and present two current utility bills in their names, along with a letter from businesses stating that they are the sole driver of the vehicle.

Mr. Serasis said that when a lot of people move to Norwalk, they do not register their car in Norwalk. He said that people should be paying taxes in Norwalk to use our resources. Mr. Corsello noted that the law is that a car is supposed to be registered to where you live. He asked how much more money this would put into the City's coffers.

Mr. Corsello said that Mr. Serasis' idea was not a bad idea and should not be a burden to someone who is following the law. Mr. Serasis said that under this new proposal, if someone has property in Norwalk, but live out of town, they will be entitled to two passes. He said that people are going to pay taxes on their car someplace, but they are

getting our services.

Mr. Bonenfant said that they have to look at all sides. He said that all along he has been opposed to charging for a beach sticker, but is almost thinking the other way now, because you can only charge a certain ratio for out of town passes. He said that Norwalk is the cheapest one along the shoreline and everybody fills up Shady Beach on weekends. Mr. Mocciae said that the City took in \$340,000 from non-resident fees.

Mr. Bonenfant said that Mr. Serasis' recommendations would require a charter change. Mr. Serasis said that is why they need to get it into the charter. There will be two public hearings – May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Corsello said that he did not believe anything new could be sent to them. Mr. Serasis said that his proposal would increase the tax coffers. He said that this is the only way to get the ball rolling, and that he followed what he was told to do. Mr. Simms agreed that Mr. Serasis did it right. He said that he believes that the only items that went forward were terms.

Mr. Corsello said that they could not give the Charter Review Commission new charges. Mr. Kydes suggested that Mr. Serasis reach out to Mr. Coppola and send a copy to him and the Common Council. Mr. Serasis said that he wants this to be something they all work on together. Mr. Corsello said that he wishes that the Charter Commission picked up on this.

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services